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(54) **SOFT INPUT PANEL SYSTEM AND METHOD**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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Related U.S. Application Data

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G06F 3/041 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **345/173**; 345/179; 345/905;
715/825

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 345/173,
345/179, 347, 762, 156, 901, 905, 87; 715/808,
715/825–829; 395/340

See application file for complete search history.

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A method and system for receiving user input data into a computer system having a graphical windowing environment. A touch-sensitive display screen for displaying images and detecting user activity is provided. A management component connects to the graphical windowing environment to create an input panel window for display on the screen. An input method which may be a COM object is selected from multiple input methods available, and installed such that the input method can call functions of the management component. Each input method includes a corresponding input panel, such as a keyboard, which it draws in the input panel window. When the user taps the screen at the input panel, the input method calls a function of the management component to pass corresponding input information appropriate information such as a keystroke or character to the management component. In response, the management component communicates the user data to the graphical windowing environment as a message, whereby an application program receives the message as if the message was generated on a hardware input device.

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31 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets

